

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I have written to our students today and a copy can be found along with this letter.

I have focused on four key themes, and would be grateful for your support in reinforcing these with your son/daughter.

1. **Attendance:** It is very important that students join all of their remote lessons: we have exactly the same timetable in place as we had before Christmas, with the same expectations regarding work completion. This is vital for students to ensure that they continue to learn, but as we learnt from the previous lockdown, it also provides daily structure to their lives, as well as connectivity with their peers and teachers. Attendance at lessons this week has been excellent – thank you for your on-going support with this. We will be sending absence texts in the usual way, so please ensure that you let us know if your son/daughter is unable to attend for any reason. We can support individuals that are having difficulty joining lessons for any reason; please contact their Personal Tutor or email info@gmc.ac.uk so that we can address this.
2. **Exams:** I am very aware that the lack of clarity regarding the summer exam situation is very unsettling for students. It is important that they understand that predictions will be based on a range of evidence, reflecting the level of their performance by the time this information is requested. We have been anticipating that the current situation might arise, and have therefore ensured that we will have robust evidence to support our judgements. I have reminded students today that it is a very long time until June/July so there is everything to work for. Your support in asserting this message would be appreciated.
3. **Student wellbeing:** The combination of short winter days, lockdown and exam uncertainty would challenge the most resilient of us. I have encouraged students to make the most of the opportunities that College can offer, and to use the structure of their timetable to plan their days. The long lunch period is a good time for fresh air and exercise, and we will also be providing a list of lunchtime enrichments that they can join. Details of other activities that they can get involved in can be found in the weekly College News, and virtual work experience opportunities are listed on Firefly: <https://gmc.fireflycloud.net/work-experience/virtual-work-experience>
4. **Sources of support:** Although learning is taking place remotely, all of our support systems and functions are continuing to operate, and in my email to students today I have included links to these. I have also included a link to the Action for Happiness January calendar, which provides lots of ideas about ways to stay positive: <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/january>

If you have any concerns or queries do not hesitate to contact us. I will update you regularly with information as we receive it.

With best wishes to you and your families,

Ali

*Ali Foss
Principal
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